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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,306	09/23/2003	Tatsuya Imai	243085US2	9272
22850	7590	07/18/2007		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER CHAI, LONGBIT	
			ART UNIT 2131	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 07/18/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,306

Applicant(s)

IMAI, TATSUYA

Examiner

Longbit Chai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE on 6/7/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-19, 23 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-19, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Presently, pending claims are 1 – 9, 11 – 19, 23 and 24.

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/7/2007 has been entered.

#### ***Response to Argument***

3. As per claim 1, 11 – 12 and 23 – 24, Applicant asserts prior-arts does not teach “sending a test signal to a hardware resource of an image forming apparatus” and in response providing “data indicating a usage state including information in response to the test signal from the hardware resource” (Remarks; Page 14 / 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Para). Examiner respectfully disagrees because (a) a printer /scanner controller is considered as an image forming apparatus and a printer /scanner device is considered as a hardware resource (b) Maniwa teaches a command / response interface (i.e. Interface B) between the printer /scanner controller and the printer / scanner device (Maniwa: Column 6 Line 45 – 48 and Figure 1 / Interface B) (c) the command / response includes instructing an operation of the printer /scanner and checking the state thereof such as completion or suspension of the printer job (Maniwa: Column 6 Line 45 – 48 and Column 3 Line 18 – 20) (d) Examiner notes the command is interpreted as the “test signal” and the status of completion or suspension of the printer job as presented by the printer /scanner

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device is interpreted as the "usage state including information in response to the test signal" to meet the claim language – This is also consistent with the disclosure of the instant specification that indicates (e) the processing unit sends a "command" as a "test signal" and this test signal (i.e. command) is input to the hardware resource (i.e. printer / scanner) (SPEC: Page 48 / Line 2 – 4: the processing unit 102 sends this command as a test signal to the engine interface 103 and this test signal is input to the hardware resource 163) (f) the response of the test signal (i.e. the response of the command) can include, for example, a status of the processed command (normally processed or abnormally processed) (SPEC: Page 48 / Line 16 – 21: Examiner notes a completion of the printer job, as taught by Maniwa (see above), can be considered as a status of "normally processed" while a suspension of the printer job can be considered as a status of "abnormally processed"). Therefore, Maniwa does teach "sending a test signal to a hardware resource of an image forming apparatus" and in response providing "data indicating a usage state including information in response to the test signal from the hardware resource" and as such Applicant's arguments are respectfully traversed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 is indefinite because the claim language "a program that is used for a management device" is not clear as to claiming the computer program at the management

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device or claiming the computer program performing the specific functions of the management device or something else and therefore it is not certain what exactly the Applicant is referred to.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11 –12, 15, 19 and 23 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gecht et al. (U.S. Patent 6,859,832), in view of Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,768,483).

As per claim 1, 11 –12 and 23 – 24, Gecht teaches a management mediating device:  
comprising:

management system communication means for making a connection to a management system outside a fire wall from inside the fire wall (Gecht : Abstract / Line 10 –15 and Column 8 Line 12 –18), and receiving a command from the management system (Gecht : Figure 1 & 8, Column 10 Line 23 – 45);

processing means for performing a process in accordance with the received command (Gecht : Column 10 Line 23 – 45 and Column 5 Line 18 – 25), the process including to send a test signal to a hardware resource of an image forming apparatus to obtain data indicating a usage state of the image forming apparatus in a local area, the

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data indicating the usage state including information in response to the test signal from the hardware resource (as taught by Maniwa – see below);

management object system communication means for transferring the command to a management object system (Gecht : Column 10 Line 38 – 45);

storing means for storing a connection schedule of the management system communication means (Gecht : Column 5 Line 22 – 25, Column 5 Line 58 – 60 and Column 12 Line 56 – 59: requested print job can include a schedule); and

instructing means for, in accordance with the connection schedule, instructing the management system communication means to make a connection to the management system (Gecht : Column 3 Line 30 – 32 and Column 5 Line 18 – 21: the polling device may periodically poll the spooling server is considered as periodically start the connection to the management device at the polling / connection start interval).

However, Gecht does not teach the process including to send a test signal to a hardware resource of an image forming apparatus to obtain data indicating a usage state of the image forming apparatus in a local area, the data indicating the usage state including information in response to the test signal from the hardware resource.

Maniwa teaches the process including to send a test signal to a hardware resource of an image forming apparatus to obtain data indicating a usage state of the image forming apparatus in a local area, the data indicating the usage state including information in response to the test signal from the hardware resource (Maniwa : Figure 9 and Column 3 Line 17 – 27, Column 6 Line 45 – 48 & Figure 1 / Interface B, Column 6 Line 45 – 48 and Column 3 Line 18 – 20: Examiner notes each image-forming device (e.g. printer controller) is configured with NIC (Network Interface Card) for communication purpose which is interpreted as the "image-forming-device communication unit" – i.e. the image-forming-device communication unit is

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configured to interface with the network in the following manners: (1) transmits a device message to the corresponding image-forming device upon receiving the device message from the network (i.e. the management system), and (2) receives the device-state information from the corresponding image-forming device and forwards to the network (i.e. the management system). Besides, Examiner further notes (a) a printer /scanner controller is considered an image forming apparatus and a printer /scanner device is considered as a hardware resource (b) Maniwa teaches a command / response interface (i.e. Interface B) between the printer /scanner controller and the printer / scanner device (Maniwa: Column 6 Line 45 – 48 and Figure 1 / Interface B) (c) the command / response includes instructing an operation of the printer /scanner and checking the state thereof such as completion or suspension of the printer job (Maniwa: Column 6 Line 45 – 48 and Column 3 Line 18 – 20) (d) Examiner notes the command is interpreted as the “test signal” and the status of completion or suspension of the printer job as presented by the printer /scanner device is interpreted as the “usage state including information in response to the test signal” to meet the claim language – This is also consistent with the disclosure of the instant specification that indicates (e) the processing unit sends a “command” as a “test signal” and this test signal (i.e. command) is input to the hardware resource (i.e. printer / scanner) (SPEC: Page 48 / Line 2 – 4: the processing unit 102 sends this command as a test signal to the engine interface 103 and this test signal is input to the hardware resource 163) (f) the response of the test signal (i.e. the response of the command) can include, for example, a status of the processed command (normally processed or abnormally processed) (SPEC: Page 48 / Line 16 – 21: Examiner notes a completion of the printer job, as taught by Maniwa (see above), can be considered as a status of “normally processed” while a suspension of the printer job can be considered as a status of “abnormally processed”)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Maniwa within the system of Gecht because (a) Gecht teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 – 10 and Figure 1) and (b) Maniwa teaches providing improved printing functions in which the convenience of work for receiving / responding print image data between the file server and printer controller over a network (Maniwa : Column 4 Line 40 – 46: including wide area or local area networks).

As per claim 4 and 15, Gecht teaches the processing means has a schedule changing function of changing the connection schedule stored in the storing means in accordance with the command (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 – 59).

As per claim 8 and 19, Gecht teaches when the command is a schedule requiring command, the processing means reads the connection schedule from the storing means, and causes the management system communication means to provide the connection schedule to the management system. (Gecht : Column 5 Line 58 —60 and Figure 9: The print job may include the schedule and the requested print job is communicated between the management device and the polling device).

5. Claims 2 – 3 and 13 – 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gecht et al. (U.S. Patent 6,859,832), in view of Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,768,483), in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,424,429), and in view of Reichman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,535,716).



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As per claim 2 and 13, Gecht as modified teaches making a connection to the management system at a specific time (Gecht : Column 5 Line 22 – 25). However, Gecht does not disclose expressly (1) making a connection to the management system at a specified date and time.

Takahashi teaches:

(1) an instruction of making a connection to the management system at a specified date and time (Takahashi : Column 5 Line 40 – 46).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Takahashi within the system of Gecht as modified because (a) Gecht teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 —10 and Figure 1) and (b) Takahashi teaches providing a flexible scheduling mechanism to deliver the data resource from the internet based on the user desired schedules (Takahashi : Column 5 Line 40 – 46).

Gecht in view of Takahashi teaches:

(2) an instruction of making a connection to the management system at a specified time every day (Takahashi : Column 5 Line 40 – 46: the specific date / time is selected based on the user's desired schedules, which evidently covers any range of year, month and day as presented by a calendar and as such scheduling at a specific time everyday is thus feasible as taught by Takahashi);

(3) an instruction of making a connection to the management system at a specified date and time every month (Takahashi : Column 5 Line 40 – 46: See the same rationale as set forth in rejecting item-(2));

(4) an instruction of making a connection to the management system in a specified

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period at intervals of a specified value (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 – 59: dynamically adjusted interval & Takahashi : Column 5 Line 40 – 46: the specific date / time, as taught by Takahashi, is selected based on the user's desired schedules, which evidently covers any range of a specific period (year/month/day) as presented by a calendar);

(5) an instruction of making a connection to the management system in a specified period at intervals of a specified value every day (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 – 59: dynamically adjusted interval & Takahashi : Column 5 Line 40 – 46: See the same rationale as set forth in rejecting item-(2)).

However, Gecht in view of Takahashi does not disclose expressly (6) an instruction of making a connection to the management system from a specified date and time at intervals of a specified value for an indefinite period.

Reichman teaches (6) an instruction of making a connection to the management system from a specified date and time at intervals of a specified value for an indefinite period (Reichman : Column 9 Line 19 – 21: preferred schedule contains start date/ time and end date / time and thereby, Examiner notes "an indefinite period" is interpreted as an unexpected long period of time – for example, when the end date / time (year/month/day) is configured as 2106 / month / day). •

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Reichman within the system of Gecht as modified because (a) Gecht as modified teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 – 10 and Figure 1) and (b) Reichman teaches providing a flexible scheduling mechanism to deliver the data resource from the satellite network that can yield optional bandwidth on demand features to remote terminals (Reichman : Column 2 Line 28 – 32 and

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Column 9 Line 14 – 21).

6. Claims 2 – 3 and 13 – 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gecht et al. (U.S. Patent 6,859,832), in view of Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,768,483), in view of Fujisawa (U.S. Patent 2002/0059176), and in view of Reichman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,535,716).

As per claim 2 and 13, Gecht as modified teaches making a connection to the management system at a specific time (Gecht : Column 5 Line 22 – 25). However, Gecht does not disclose expressly (1) making a connection to the management system at a specified date and time.

Fujisawa teaches:

(1) an instruction of making a connection to the management system at a specified date and time (Fujisawa : Para [0151] Line 7 – 12).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Fujisawa within the system of Gecht as modified because (a) Gecht teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 —10 and Figure 1) and (b) Fujisawa teaches providing a flexible scheduling mechanism to deliver the data resource from the internet based on the user desired schedules (Fujisawa : Para [0007] and [0151]).

Gecht in view of Fujisawa teaches:

(2) an instruction of making a connection to the management system at a specified time every day (Fujisawa : Para [0151] Line 7 – 12: the specific date / time is selected based on the user's desired schedules, which evidently covers any range of. year, month and day as

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presented by a calendar and as such scheduling at a specific time everyday is thus feasible as taught by Fujisawa);

(3) an instruction of making a connection to the management system at a specified date and time every month (Fujisawa : Para [0151] Line 7 – 12: See the same rationale as set forth in rejecting item-(2));

(4) an instruction of making a connection to the management system in a specified period at intervals of a specified value (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 – 59: dynamically adjusted interval & Fujisawa : Para [0151] Line 7 – 12: the specific date / time, as taught by Fujisawa, is selected. based on the user's desired schedules, which evidently covers any range of a specific period (year/month/day) as presented by a calendar);

(5) an instruction of making a connection to the management system in a specified period at intervals of a specified value every day (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 –59: dynamically adjusted interval & Fujisawa : Para [0151] Line 7 – 12: See the same rationale as set forth in rejecting item-(2)).

However, Gecht in view of Fujisawa does not disclose expressly (6) an instruction of making a connection to the management system from a specified date and time at intervals of a specified value for an indefinite period. .

Reichman teaches (6) an instruction of making a connection to the management system from a specified date and time at intervals of a specified value for an indefinite period (Reichman : Column 9 Line 19 – 21: preferred schedule contains start date/ time and end date / time and thereby, Examiner notes "an indefinite period" is interpreted as an unexpected long period of time – for example, when the end date / time (year/month/day) is configured as 2106 / month / day).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made to combine the teaching of Reichman within the system of Gecht as modified because (a) Gecht as modified teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 – 10 and Figure 1) and (b) Reichman teaches providing a flexible scheduling mechanism to deliver the data resource from the satellite network that can yield optional bandwidth on demand features to remote terminals (Reichman : Column 2 Line 28 – 32 and Column 9 Line 14 – 21).

As per claim 3 and 14, the claim limitations are met as the same reasons as that set forth in the paragraph above regarding to claim 2 and 13 with the exception of the features (3) when only the start date and time is specified, and a month of the start date and time is not specified, an instruction of making a connection to the management system at the start date and time every month (Reichman : Column 9 Line 19 – 21: preferred schedule contains start date/time and end date / time, as taught by Reichman, and therefore, Examiner notes when a month of the start date and time is not specified, the situation is considered as the month is ignored with unknown value and thus only the day / time would be executed regardless in every month); (5) See the same rationale of rejection as (3). (6) when the start date and time and the value of the interval are specified, and the end date and time is not specified, an instruction of making a connection to the management system from the start date and time for an indefinite period (Reichman : Column 9 Line 19 – 21: preferred schedule contains start date/ time and end date / time, as taught by Reichman, and therefore, Examiner notes "an indefinite period" is interpreted as an unexpected long period of time – for example, when the end date / time (year/month/day) is configured as an unknown value).

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7. Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gecht et al. (U.S. Patent 6,859,832), in view of Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,768,483).

As per claim 5 and 16, Gecht as modified teaches adding an additional connection schedule to the connection schedule stored in the storing means, the additional connection schedule being attached to the schedule adding command (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 — 59: It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gecht's reference to accommodate adding an additional connection schedule because Gecht teaches dynamically adjustable scheduled polling interval based on the traffic or requests for files (Gecht : Column 12 Line 56 – 59).

8. Claims 6 – 7 and 17 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gecht et al. (U.S. Patent 6,859,832), in view of Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,768,483), in view of Barrett et al. (U.S. Patent 2001/0056485).

As per claim 6 and 17, Gecht does not disclose expressly the connection schedule is constituted by a plurality of unit schedules, and an identifier is attached to each of the unit schedule, when the command is a schedule deleting command, the processing means searches the storing means to find the unit schedule corresponding to the identifier attached to the schedule deleting command, and deletes the found unit schedule. '

Barrett teaches the connection schedule is constituted by a plurality of unit schedules and an identifier is attached to each of the unit schedule (Barrett : Para [0019] Line 17 – 23 and [0049]: the dynamic scheduling is used to identify the target samples – i.e. each target sample has its own identified individual dynamic schedule), when the command is a schedule deleting command, the processing means searches the storing means to find the unit

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schedule corresponding to the identifier attached to the schedule deleting command, and deletes the found unit schedule (Barrett : Para [0019] Line 17 – 23 and [0049]: It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barrett's reference to accommodate deleting an existing connection schedule because Barrett teaches dynamically adjustable scheduler).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Barrett within the system of Gecht as modified because (a) Gecht teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 – 10 and Figure 1) and (b) Barrett teaches providing a flexible and dynamic scheduling mechanism for providing efficient data collection and efficient scheduling of data collection (Barrett : Para [0011] and [0049]).

As per claim 7 and 18, Gecht does not disclose expressly the command is an all schedule changing command, the processing means extracts an Internet address attached to the all schedule changing command, causes the management system communication means to obtain a new connection schedule existing at the Internet address, and replaces the connection schedule stored in the storing means with the new connection schedule.

Barrett teaches the command is an all schedule changing command (Barrett : Para [0019] Line 17 – 23 and [0049]: the dynamic scheduling is used to identify the target samples – i.e. each target sample has its own identified individual dynamic schedule and therefore, Examiner notes a connection schedule is constituted by a plurality of unit schedules associated with a plurality of target samples), the processing means extracts an Internet address attached to the all schedule changing command, causes the management system communication means to obtain a new connection schedule existing at the Internet address,

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and replaces the connection schedule stored in the storing means with the new connection schedule (Barrett : Para [0044] Last Sentence and Para [0039] Last Sentence : the schedule is downloaded from the internet and therefore, an internet address must be used for downloading process). See same rationale of combination applied herein as above in rejecting the claim 6.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gecht et al. (U.S. Patent 6,859,832), in view of Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,768,483), in view of Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent 2002/0194307).

As per claim 9, Gecht does not disclose expressly the management system communication means has a SOAP processing function of making communication with the management system based on SOAP.

Anderson teaches the management system communication means has a SOAP processing function of making communication with the management system based on SOAP (Anderson : Para [0064] and Para [0031]).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Anderson within the system of Gecht as modified because (a) Gecht teaches providing printing services over a communication network using device management between the spooling server and the polling device (Gecht : Column 1 Line 8 – 10 and Figure 1) and (b) Anderson teaches providing a simple object access protocol (SOAP) between the mobile print server and the printer (Anderson : Para [0011] and [0049]).

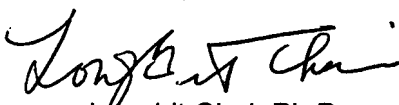


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Longbit Chai, Ph.D.  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2131  
6/21/2007